

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING-MINUTES  
MARCH 13 & 14, 2007**

At the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Holderness held on March 13 and 14, 2007 the following business was transacted.

At 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2006 at the Holderness Town Hall, Moderator Ross Deachman convened the meeting and began reading the warrant. After reading Articles 1 and 2 the Moderator declared the polls opened. At 7:00 p.m., Moderator Deachman declared the polls closed and the ballots were counted. Results were announced and the Moderator declared the winners.

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at Holderness Central School the Meeting resumed. Moderator Ross Deachman opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor and had a moment of silence for those residents that passed away during the year 2006.

Moderator Ross Deachman announced the results of Articles 1 and declared the winners. The Moderator declared the Article 2 (the Zoning Amendments) had all passed. Moderator announced the Holderness Central School and the Pemi-Baker School District results. Moderator Deachman asked for a motion that we dispense with the reading of the remainder of the Warrant and take the articles up one at a time as they appear in the Warrant. Moved by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor and seconded by Peg Winton. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

**Article 1:** To choose all Town Officers by official ballot:

**Selectmen for 3 Years: (Vote for two)**

Barbara C. Currier	229
Peter Webster	204

**Moderator for 2 Years:**

Ross Deachman	223
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**Town Treasurer for 1 Year:**

Todd Elgin	221
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**Trustee of Trust Fund for 3 Years:**

Brinton W. Woodward, Jr.	219
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**Library Trustee for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)**

Susan A. Beeson	216
Todd Elgin	212

**Fire Ward for 3 Years:**

Earl Hansen	224
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**Article 2:** To vote by official ballot on the amendments to the existing Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board and posted with this warrant.

**1. “ Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Waukewan Watershed area shall be added as an overlay to the ordinance?”  
(Proposed by the Planning Board)**

YES	202	NO	21
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**2. “ Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: All references to specific State RSA's and regulations shall be replaced with a general statement "as per State laws and regulations?”  
(Proposed by the Planning Board)**

YES	193	NO	40
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**3. “ Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Amend the floodplain ordinance as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program?”  
(Proposed by the Planning Board)**

YES	213	NO	16
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**HOLDERNESS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Election Results*

**School Board Member for 3 Years:**

Wendy Mersch	209
Jonathan Stewart	202

**District Clerk for 3 Years:**

write-in	
Sara Weinberg	21

**HOLDERNESS ELECTION RESULTS**  
**PEMI-BAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Election Results*

**Moderator for 1 Year:**

Quentin Blaine	218
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**School Board Member for 3 Years: Holderness**

Jeffrey O. McIver, Sr.	219
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**School Board Member for 3 Years: Plymouth**

Ken Sutherland	205
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**School Board Member for 3 Years: Wentworth**

Susan Judd	201
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**HOLDERNESS ELECTION RESULTS**  
**PEMI-BAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT-WARRANT ARTICLES**

**Article 1:** *Shall the School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$667,000) for the construction and original equipping of a new recreation/athletic field (track) on land owned by the School District and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$667,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act(RSA 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (The School Board recommends this appropriation.) (3/5 [60%] ballot vote required*

<b>Yes</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>84</b>
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**Article 2:** *Shall the School District vote to authorize the School Board to negotiate and execute such tuition contracts as the board may determine advisable for students inside or outside the Pemi-Baker Regional School District. The School Board recommends this article. (Majority vote required.)*

<b>Yes</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>32</b>
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**Article 3:** *Shall the School District vote to establish a contingency fund in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated 198:4-b, such contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year and, further, to see if the District will raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for such contingency fund. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)*

**Yes 179 No 51**

**Article 4:** *Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Plymouth Regional Educational Support Staff, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increases</u>
2007-2008	\$100,204
2008-2009	\$ 82,199
2009-2010	\$ 89,858

*and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand two hundred four dollars (\$100,204) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (The School Board recommends this Appropriation.) (Majority vote required.)*

**Yes 168 No 60**

**Article 5:** *To see if the School District will vote to authorize and empower the School Board to borrow up to one hundred four thousand dollars (\$104,000) representing a portion of the State of New Hampshire's share of special education costs for the 2007-2008 school year, pursuant to RSA 198:20-d upon such terms and conditions as the School Board determines in the best interests of the District; said sum together with the costs of borrowing to be repaid by the State of New Hampshire pursuant to RSA 198:20-d; or to take any action in relation thereto. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)*

**Yes 183 No 45**

**Article 6:** *To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session (deliberative session) for the purpose set forth therein, totaling twelve million four hundred seventeen thousand two hundred eighty-two dollars (\$12,417,282). The Board recommends this article (Majority vote required.)*

*Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be twelve million one hundred seventy-four thousand seven hundred thirty-three dollars (\$12,174,733), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This sum excludes the sums in Warrant Articles 1, 3 and 4.*

**Yes 165 No 61**

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of all Town Officers and Committees.

Moved by James Hogan and seconded Peg Winton. Malcolm “Tink” Taylor requested for an addition on page 6 of the 2006 Annual Town Report that Margaret Winton had been omitted as Chair person for Patriotic Purposes and recognized her fine job. A voice vote was taken on the correction and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of RSA72:28 II & IV, (Veterans Tax Credit on residential property), to increase the annual property tax credit from \$300. to \$400.

**Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Peg Winton and seconded by Alden Van Sickle. No discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of One Million Nine Hundred Sixty-four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-four Dollars (\$1,964,664.) for general municipal operations. Said sum does not include special or individual articles elsewhere within this warrant.

**Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Fran Taylor and seconded by Susan Beeson. No discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 6:** To see if the town will vote to rescind Article 9 of the 2001 Town meeting requiring the approval of the town meeting prior to the Board of Selectmen selling any town owned property for an amount over \$5,000. **Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Alden Van Sickle and seconded by Peg Winton. Questions were asked as to the intent of this Article. Fire Chief Mardin advised it was for the purpose of allowing the Board of Selectmen to sell equipment for more than \$ 5,000.00 without Town Meeting approval.

A motion was made to amend the Article to read "To see if the town will authorize the sale of the old fire engine." No second was received on this amended Article; therefore, no vote was taken. Questions were asked whether this Article, as presented would allow the Board of Selectmen to sell land property. Clarification was given that this Article allows the Board of Selectmen to sell equipment not land property.

Alden Van Sickle moved to amend Article 6 to read, " To see if the town will vote to replace Article 9 of the 2001 Town meeting requiring the approval of the town meeting prior to the Board of Selectmen selling any town owned property for an amount exceeding \$ 20,000.00. " Samuel Brickley seconded this amendment. A voice vote was taken on the amendment to Article 6 and the amendment **PASSED.**

A voice vote was taken on the Article as amended and **PASSED.**

**Article 7** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell, at a price acceptable to the Selectmen, the Town's 1986 Mack pumper fire truck.

Moved by Gwen Blair and seconded by Alden Van Sickle. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED.**

**Article 8:** To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing Transfer Station Equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$13,500) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. **Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Peg Winton seconded by Samuel Brickley. Willis Holland asked if this was a specific piece of equipment or for any equipment. Chairman Peter Francesco advised due to the use needs of an excavator at the transfer station to pack down materials, funds requested in this Article could be used to purchase another excavator. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy-seven Thousand Dollars (\$277,000) to be placed into the following Capital Reserve Funds:

Fire/Rescue Vehicles	\$35,000.
Road Reconstruction	150,000.
White Oak Pond Dam	1,000.
Library	12,500.
Municipal Buildings	2,000.
Revaluation	9,500
Fire Equipment	2,000.
Honor Roll	10,000.
Public Works Vehicles	35,000.
Police Cruiser	15,000.
Conservation	<u>5,000</u>
	<b>\$277,000</b>

**Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Larry Webster seconded by Peg Winton. Martha Richards questioned the use of the Conservation Funds. Larry Spencer, Chairman of the Conservation Commission advised these funds could be used to purchase property or easements. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Ninety-seven Thousand Dollars (\$197,000) for the following capital projects and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw the sums indicated from the following designated Capital Reserve Funds for these purposes:

Road Reconstruction	\$150,000.
Revaluation	9,500
Police Cruiser	25,000
Library Expansion	<u>12,500</u>
	<b>\$197,000.</b>

**Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Peg Winton and seconded by Joanna Tuveson. Willis Holland asked which town roads would have reconstruction. Peter Francesco, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen stated that the roads selected were Tadadump Road, East Holderness Road, Perkins Lane and Heritage Hill Road.

Amanda Loud questioned the use of the \$ 12,500.00 Library Expansion funds. Todd Elgin, Library Trustee answered that the funds would cover architectural fees, planning, designs and engineering fees associated with the expansion. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Moderator Ross Deachman spoke of the Grafton County Prescription Discount Program wherein anyone who does not have prescription coverage may be eligible for up to 20% off their prescriptions at participating pharmacies.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purchase of a portable pump for the fire department. Said funds to be raised by taxation.  
**Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Alden Van Sickle and seconded by Harry Maybeck. Earle Jenkins asked if Article 11 was in addition to other funds previously voted on at this meeting. The Moderator advised these funds were in addition to the other funds voted on and would be directly from taxation and not capital reserves. A voice votes was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 12** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the design and construction of a new veteran's war memorial honor roll and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from the Honor Roll Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose, with the balance of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to come from private sources. No amount to be raised by taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the memorial is completed or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. **Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee**

Moved by Scott King and seconded by Edward Ford. A discussion ensued regarding the location of the monument. Chairman Francesco advised that a committee has been established to determine location, design, standards and monetary needs of this monument. Harry Decker, Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee fielded questions pertaining to the committee and their work thus far on the project.



Amanda Loud moved to amend the Article; "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the design and construction of a new veteran's war memorial honor roll and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from the Honor Roll Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose, with the balance of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to come from private sources. No amount to be raised by taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the memorial is completed or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. **The memorial shall not be located on the Library property and the existing memorial on Library property shall be removed from the Library property 30 days prior to the new memorial being placed.** " Judy Webster seconded the amendment. Larry Webster, Library Trustee advised that the Library expansion may dictate the location of the memorial. A voice vote was taken and was inconclusive. The Moderator called for a division of the house. The division of the house resulted in a vote of 62 votes opposed and 34 votes in favor of the Amendment. The amendment **FAILED**.

Anne Hunnewell moved the question and seconded by Martha Richards and a voice vote was taken and the motion to move the question **PASSED**.

A voice vote was taken on Article 12 and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Fund with said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, if any, to be transferred to the Town's general fund:

Name of CRF fund	Date Established	Amount to general
Land/building Acquisition CRF	Unknown	\$ 0

Moved by Alden Van Sickle and seconded by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Retiree Health Insurance Expendable Trust Fund to the Employee Health Insurance Expendable Trust Fund. **(2/3 vote required)**

Moved by Samuel Brickley seconded by Peg Winton. Walter Johnson, Town Administrator was allowed to speak and he explained there is a dollar (\$ 1.00) in this fund and it was established to offset the expenses that the Town could incur

from retirees health insurance expenses. Further, this Article allows for the Board of Selectmen to consider alternative health insurance choices for the employees. The Board of Selectmen confirmed they support this Article. A standing vote took place and the Moderator declared the Article **PASSED** by 2/3 vote requirement.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to accept a donation of land from Holderness 2000 located behind Curry Place off US Route 3 containing approximately 1.8 acres know as Map 102 Lot 006. **This article requested by petition.**

Moved by Fran Taylor and seconded by James Hogan.

Richard Miller moved to amend the Article to read, **“To see if the Town will vote to accept a donation of land from the “ Holderness 2000 group”. Said land located behind Curry place off US Route 3 containing approximately 1.8 acres and identified by Map 102 Lot 006. And that said acceptance be conditional upon absolutely no installation of any type of any additional permanent toilet facilities public or private at that location and that the town has absolutely no liability with reference to any existing or future septic systems or part there of at that location now and forevermore. Said conditions to be inserted in the new deed.** “seconded by Edward Ford. Discussion followed to include concerns on the current septic system capabilities and the liability it could impose upon the Town.

A voice vote was taken on the Amendment and the amendment **FAILED**.

Questions were asked of William Webb as to his reasoning why Holderness 2000 was giving the Town the land. Webb explained that Holderness 2000 felt this land would be better preserved if it was owned by the Town as a Town common. This would help the Town fulfill a goal of the Town Master Plan to preserve open space in the village area whenever possible.

A voice vote was taken and the Article **Passed**.

Richard Miller challenged the ruling of the Chair and the Chair’s ruling was put to a vote and was upheld with a voice vote and the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to accept Currier Field Road as a Town Road. **This article requested by petition.**

Moved by William Tirone and seconded by James Hogan.

William Tirone moved to amend the Article, **“To see if the Town will vote to accept Currier Field Road as a Town Road contingent on the abutters completing the following modifications to the road: 1. The cul-de-sac is widened and paved to a ninety-foot diameter circle and 2. Provision is made to divert drainage water away from Springer Lane.** “seconded by James Hogan and the Moderator incorporated this amendment as part of the main motion with the consent of the mover and the seconder.

Peter Furmanick, Road Agent further moved to amended the Article **“To see if the Town will vote to accept Currier Field Road as a Town Road contingent on the abutters completing the following modifications to the road: 1. The cul-de-sac is widened and paved to a ninety-foot diameter circle and 2. Provision be made for the proper discharge of all drainage water to include away from Springer Lane as approved by the Town Road Agent.** “Seconded by Edward Ford. A voice vote on this amended article was taken and the Article **FAILED.**

Declaring the second Amended Article failed, the Moderator directed the meeting to return to the main motion as modified by Mr. Tirone. After much discussion pertaining to this article Bonnie Hunt moved the question and seconded by James Hogan. A voice vote was taken and motion to move the question **PASSED.**

Moderator Deachman directed the meeting to the Article as modified to read, **“To see if the Town will vote to accept Currier Field Road as a Town Road contingent on the abutters completing the following modifications to the road; 1. The cul-de-sac is widened and paved to a ninety-foot diameter circle and 2. Provision is made to divert drainage water away from Springer Lane.** “and a voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED.**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the well being of the people of Holderness.

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of US greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the Town of Holderness encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States and to declared candidates for those offices. (This article is at the request of the Holderness Conservation Committee).

Moved by Larry Spencer and seconded by Martha Richards. Larry Spencer, Chairman of the Conservation Commission explained this article to the meeting and hoped the residents of Holderness would support this article. Discussion followed. A voice vote was taken on the motion and the article **PASSED**.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our elected officials at the local and state levels:

Resolved: We the citizens of Holderness, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. "The Pledge" perpetuates a burdensome property tax. We urge our elected officials to reject "The Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and to adopt a revenue system that relieves the local property tax burden. This article requested by petition.

Moved by Frances Taylor and seconded by Martha Richards. Sidney Lovett, Selectman explained this resolution to the meeting. After much discussion pertaining to this article Martha Macomber moved the question and it was seconded by Alden Van Sickle. A voice vote was taken and motion to move the question **PASSED**.

A voice vote was taken on the Article and the vote was inconclusive. Moderator called for a division of the house. A division of the house took place and the Moderator declared the Article **PASSED**.

**Article 19:** To transact any other business that can legally come before the meeting.

The Moderator recognized Martha Macomber. Martha Macomber, Chairman of the Holderness School Board thanked the community for the support that was given at the Holderness Central School District meeting.

Malcolm “Tink” Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alden Van Sickle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen King  
Town Clerk